the claws upon the hind-feet are flattened and somewhat nail-like. There are about ten species, hut of course, as is so universally the case, a great many more names have been given. The molar formula is like that of *j&nhydris* save that there is an extra premolar in the upper jaw. There are fourteen pairs of ribs, of which eleven pairs reach the ten-jointed sternum. The caudals are twenty-three. The Cape Otter, the " elawless " Otter, has been separated as a genus ^*ionyx.* So too has the South American *JPteronura brasiliensis** But in neither case is the separation allowed by Mr. Thomas in a recent revision of the genus.[1] The latter species has the reputation of being very fierce, and is known in

FIG. 228.—Otter. *iMtra <*ndgaria»* x $„

Uruguay by the ~rame of " Lobo de peclio bianco.** The British species, *L. vulgaris,* reaches a length of 2 feet or so, with a tail of 16 inches ; it ranges over the whole of Europe and a large portion of Asia. This Ofcter often burrows in the banks of the streams* which it frequents ; and in the burrow in March or April the female brings forth her young, three to five in number. It will also frequent the sea-coast.

fossil **Mustelidae.** — Besides a number of the existing genera there are fossil members of this family which cannot be referred to existing genera. These latter extend back into time as fax as the Eocene. *Stenoplesictis,* one of these Eocene forms referable to the sub-family Mustelinae, is to be distinguished

[1] -^Preliminary Notes on the Characters and Synonymy of the different Species of Otter," *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1889, p. 190.